

Thanks again.
Sincerely,

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*Assistant to the President and
Director of Legislative Affairs.*

TRIBUTE TO MIKE FENNELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, in sports today, words like courage and character, leadership and perseverance are used so frequently they have become almost cliché. Sometimes, though, a story emerges that rekindles our faith in the indomitable will of the human spirit, which proves a sports figure can embody all those traits and more, and which inspires not only a team but an entire community. Such is the case in a story of Mike Fennell, coach of the McQuaid Jesuit High School baseball team in Rochester, New York.

One week ago, Mike coached the Knights to their first section v baseball championship in 20 years. It was the 250th victory of his coaching career, the team's fourth championship game in 5 years, and Coach Fennell's first sectional title. Indeed, these accomplishments are worthy of note, but they are even more remarkable considering just days before the championship game in Rochester's Frontier Field, Mike Fennell was in a hospital bed recovering from yet another surgery in his valiant crusade against non-smoker's lung cancer.

Since his diagnosis in November, Mike has faced this disease bravely, stubbornly, and even with a good dose of humor. His struggle has been so valiant and inspiring that following Mike's hair loss, resulting from ongoing chemotherapy, the McQuaid Knights wanted to do something special to show their support, love, and respect for their ailing coach, and that is when the team, led by pitcher Mike Lewis and catcher Paul Knittle, decided to shave their own heads.

A baseball standout at Fairport High School and Le Moyne College, Mike spent several years in the New York Yankee farm clubs, but the leadership and inspiration Mike has shown these past few months transcend any sport or championship. During the trophy presentation, still weak from his chemo treatments, Mike shunned his walker that his wife, Erin, and nurse, Patty Messina, wanted him to use to make the trek from the dugout to home plate. He would make that walk the same way he has faced his disease, through faith, determination, and sheer will.

Mike Fennell has shown each of us how to face adversity, both bravely and proudly. He has shown us the strength to endure, even when doctors and his

own body want him to stop. Most importantly, he has shown us there is nothing quite so tenacious and unbreakable as a human spirit.

Madam Speaker, I ask this Congress to join me in saluting a hero and a champion, Coach Mike Fennell.

NO INVESTIGATION NECESSARY?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, to depart a little bit from my energy outrage day to day, where yesterday I revealed that Duke Power had charged \$3,800 a megawatt hour last winter in California, 100 times the price of 2 years ago, to point to a little growing problem of dissension on the majority side of the aisle.

Republican conference chairman, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS), has called on the Committee on Energy and Commerce to schedule hearings on the volatile prices facing energy consumers. I quote:

We need to get answers from energy companies, executives, including producers, suppliers, refiners, transporters, distributors, retailers, with the goals of finding solutions to these price fluctuations and bringing price stability to the public.

Unfortunately, he is being overruled. The majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), says he is opposed to committee hearings to look at allegations of price gouging, that is a quote, by the energy industry. He says it is cheap political demagoguery. That is another quote.

Well, let us look a little bit at the record. Of course the majority leader does represent Texas, and ExxonMobil did see their profits up 102 percent last year. Americans certainly see it at the gas pump every single day where they are being price-gouged. They had \$15.9 billion, "B," billion dollars of profit, up 102 percent in one year. But, no, there is nothing to investigate. There is no market manipulation going on here. An increase of profits of 102 percent a year? Why, that is normal.

Okay, maybe it is. Let us go and look at the natural gas market. El Paso Energy, also based in Texas, where the majority leader hales from, they had profits of \$1.2 billion last year. A relatively small company; only \$1.2 billion in profits. Of course, their profits were up 381 percent in 1 year. An awful lot of Americans saw that in their natural gas bills this winter when they were trying to heat their homes and a lot of them were freezing because they could not afford the bills. Nothing to investigate there. There is no market manipulation. It is normal for natural gas prices to go up by that much and for profits for this company to go up by 381 percent a year, except for recent revelations that have shown that El

Paso Natural Gas bought pipeline capacity and then refused to use it and refused to let any other gas company use it so they could artificially restrict supply and drive the price up. But there is nothing to investigate there.

All right, let us turn then to electricity. Duke Power. I spoke earlier about their charging as much as \$3,800 a megawatt hour, 100 times the price of 2 years ago. Just multiply your home electric bill by 100. That is what Duke was charging folks in California this winter. But they only earned \$1.8 billion of profits and their profits are only up 109 percent in 1 year. Nothing to investigate there. No. Price of \$3,800 a megawatt hour, only up 100 times what it was just 2 years ago, why that is just natural. It is those Californians. They deserve this. Nothing to investigate there.

We need a comprehensive investigation. The Bush administration's own Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has found these prices unjust and unreasonable. The staff, unfortunately the chairman is appointed by the President, Mr. Hebert of Louisiana, and the chairman says, like our majority leader from Texas, there is nothing to investigate here. This is just the market at work, and consumers should just lump it.

Well, the Republicans are going to lump it at the ballot box unless they follow the advice of their conference chairman and start doing an investigation of what is going on. And if they do not do it here in the House, I predict it will happen in the Senate. And they might just have a little bit of egg on their face here when more and more of this evidence of price gouging and market manipulation comes out. Because the American people know what is happening to them. They know it every day when they pull up to the gas pump and they know it when they are opening their electric bill and when they get their natural gas bill, and they are not going to take it for much longer any more.

CONGRESS MUST HOLD FORECASTERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR PROJECTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, we must hold forecasters accountable for the accuracy of their projections. As we are asking for straight A performance out of our public schools, we must also ask that out of our budget forecasters. We want better and more efficient use of energy resources.

As Secretary Rumsfeld is completing a comprehensive overall of our defense network, how can we expect anything less than continuous improvement